

What is claimed is:

1. A backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly, comprising:

a pair of rails, each of said pair of rails including a body portion and a detent portion, said detent portion including a cut-out on each side thereof, said cut-outs being generally symmetric with each other and forming a pair of hooks on each side of said detent portion,

wherein the cut-out on one side of said detent portion of each of said rails is for receiving a claw of the windshield wiper assembly and the hooks on the opposite side of the detent portion of each of the rails are for engaging a windshield wiper blade of the windshield wiper assembly.

2. The backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 1, wherein said detent portion includes at least a portion thereof which is decreased in thickness with respect to a thickness of said body portion.

3. The backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 1, wherein the pair of hooks on one side of said detent portion extends outwardly from a top of said detent portion and the pair of hooks on the other side of said detent portion extends outwardly from a bottom of said detent portion.

4. The backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 1, wherein the pair of hooks on one side of said detent portion is thicker than the pair of hooks on the other side of the detent portion.

5. The backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 3, wherein a first of said pair of rails includes the top hooks oriented toward a center of the windshield wiper blade and a second of said pair of rails includes the top hooks oriented away from the center of the windshield wiper blade such that the top hooks of the first rail overlap with the bottom hooks of the second rail when said pair of rails is mounted to the windshield wiper assembly.

6. The backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 4, wherein a first of said pair of rails includes the thicker hooks oriented toward a center of the windshield wiper blade and a second of said pair of rails includes the thicker hooks oriented away from center of the windshield wiper blade such that the thicker hooks of the first rail overlap with the thinner hooks of the second rail when said pair of rails is mounted to the windshield wiper assembly.

7. The backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 1, wherein said detent portion includes a central portion formed between said cut-outs and a width of said central portion is greater than a width of said body portion.

8. The backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 1, wherein each of said hooks has an internal edge formed by a respective cut-out which is non-perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said body.

9. The backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 8, wherein said internal edge is formed at an angle of 85° or less with respect to the longitudinal direction of said body.

10. The backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 1, wherein said pair of hooks on one side of said detent portion is bent in an upward direction and said pair of hooks on the other side of said detent portion is bent in a downward direction.

11. A rail for a backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly, comprising:  
a body portion and a detent portion, said detent portion including a cut-out on each side thereof, said cut-outs being generally symmetric with each other and forming a pair of hooks on each side of said detent portion,

wherein the cut-out on one side of said detent portion is for receiving a claw of the windshield wiper assembly and the hooks on the opposite side of the detent portion are for engaging a windshield wiper blade of the windshield wiper assembly.

12. The rail for a backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 11, wherein said detent portion includes at least a portion thereof which is decreased in thickness with respect to a thickness of said body portion.

13. The rail for a backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 11, wherein the pair of hooks on one side of said detent portion extend outwardly from a top of said detent portion and the pair of hooks on the other side of said detent portion extends outwardly from a bottom of said detent portion.

14. The rail for a backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 11, wherein the pair of hooks on one side of said detent portion is thicker than the pair of hooks on the other side of the detent portion.

15. The rail for a backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 11, wherein said detent portion includes a central portion formed between said cut-outs and a width of said central portion is greater than a width of said body portion.

16. The rail for a backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 11, wherein each of said hooks has an internal edge formed by the cut-out which is non-perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said body.

17. The rail for a backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 8, wherein said internal edge is formed at an angle of 85° or less with respect to the longitudinal direction of said body.

18. The rail for a backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly according to claim 1, wherein said pair of hooks on one side of said detent portion is bent in an upward direction and said pair of hooks on the other side of said detent portion is bent in a downward direction.

19. A method of manufacturing a rail for a backing strip for a windshield wiper assembly, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a body member having a generally rectangular cross-section; stamping a portion of said body member to form a decreased thickness portion; and cutting out a portion of said decreased thickness portion to form a detent portion having a cut-out on each side thereof, said cut-outs being generally symmetric with each other and forming a pair of hooks on each side of said detent portion,

wherein the cut-out on one side of said detent portion is for receiving a claw of the windshield wiper assembly and the hooks on the opposite side of the detent portion is for engaging a windshield wiper blade of the windshield wiper assembly.